

**REMARKS**

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

No claims are currently being canceled or added.

Claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 28, 29, 35, 37, 39 and 40 are currently being amended.

This amendment amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-4, 7-10, 28, 29 and 35-40 are now pending in this application.

It is respectfully requested that this after-final amendment and reply be considered and entered, since it is believed to place this application in condition for allowance.

Applicant appreciates the indication in the Office Action that claims 39 and 40 would be allowed if placed in independent form and to remove the "at least one of" feature from their respective base claim that is to be added into those claims. By way of this amendment and reply, claims 39 and 40 have been amended in accordance with the suggestions made in the Office Action, and it is respectfully submitted that claims 39 and 40 are now in allowable form.

In the Office Action, claim 39 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for the reasons set forth on page 4 of the Office Action. Due to the amendments made to claim 39 whereby it is now placed in independent form and whereby the "at least one of" feature from base claim 1 was removed when the features of claim 1 were incorporated into claim 39, this rejection is now moot.

In the Office Action, claims 1-4, 7, 8, 10, 28 and 35-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No.

5,883,621 to Iwamura in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,085,019 to Ito; claims 7-10 and 28-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwamura in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,054,022 to Van Steenbrugge; and claims 9 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Iwamura. These rejections are traversed with respect to the presently pending claims, for at least the reasons given below.

With respect to the comments made on pages 2-4 of the Office Action, the presently pending claims have been amended to provide further details that the Examiner asserted were not explicitly recited in the claims.

For example, claims 1 and 3 have been amended to explicitly recite that the video apparatus selects its communication partner based solely on information provided to it (from the other video apparatuses in claim 3 and from the network management apparatus in claim 1). Thus, a network management apparatus is not involved in such a selection, since the video apparatus does it. Accordingly, the features of Ito, as discussed in the Remarks in the Reply to the previous Office Action, does not teach or suggest such a feature, since its recording/reproducing control circuit 35 makes all such decisions for the various apparatuses in his network.

Presently pending independent claims 7 and 9 have been amended in a similar manner, whereby none of the cited art of record teaches or suggests such features.

Further, presently pending independent claims 28 and 29 have been amended to more particularly distinguish over the cited art of record, based on the statements made in pages 2-4 of the Office Action.

At the top of page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that claims 35 and 37 do not explicitly recite that a network management apparatus does not select the communication partner for a video apparatus. Claims 35 and 37 have been amended in order to more explicitly recite this feature, whereby this feature is not taught or suggested by the cited art of record.

Therefore, for the reasons provided above, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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